New York, Columbia University, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Plimpton MS 251

Description: ff. i + 112 (111) + i - In French calf, s. XVIII. - Pentrial on f. 49, possibly owner's name, "Amar__?___ Beverdier [?]"; Sir Thomas Phillipps (1792-1872), n. 2651; George A. Plimpton (1855-1936). - De Ricci, p. 1798.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 14

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/PlimptonMS251_20

Language: Latin *Country:* Spain? *Century:* 12th

Part 1: ff. 1-112v

Description: - Parchment - 330 x 239 mm - Most of manuscript in 2 columns of 30 lines ruled in lead; charts on ff. 76v-96v in varying numbers of columns and lines.

Country: Spain? *Cardinal point:*

Region: *City:*

Assigned Date: s. XII$^{4/4}$ *Searchable Date Range:* 1175 - 1199

Dated by scribe: No *Inscribed Date:*

Document: No *Number of Scribes:* ;i, ff. 2-10; ii, ff. 10-74v; iii, ff. 75-96v; iv, ff. 97-104v; v, ff. 105-112v.

Script: Early gothic transitional book hands; some rubrics and opening words of text sections in a capital display script; Greek alphabet on f. 3v.

Other Decoration: 7-line red initial on a light blue ground outlined in red; secondary initials, 1- to 3-line, in red with some flourishing; 1-line initials in text touched in red; diagrams in pen and ink.

Number of Texts: 7

Text 1: ff. 2-69v

Author: Bede

Title: De ratione temporum

Language(s): Latin

Incipit: //xxv, Quando vel quare luna vel prona vel <su>pina videatur vel erecta; xxvi, Qua ratione luna . . . [text:] De compoto vel loquela digitorum, De temporum ratione domino iuvante dicturi necessarium duximus

Explicit: ut post temporales celestium actionum sudores eternam cuncti celestium premiorum mereamur accipere palmam. Explicit liber bede de temporibus.

Notes: Ch. W. Jones, ed., Bedae Venerabilis Opera, pt. 6, 2, Opera didascalica. CC 123 B (Turnholt 1977) 266-460; see pp. 243-256 for list of manuscripts, including Plimpton MS 251 as n. 130. Also recorded in M. L. W. Laistner, A Hand-List of Bede Manuscripts (Ithaca 1943) p. 149. This manuscript beginning defectively in the chapter list.

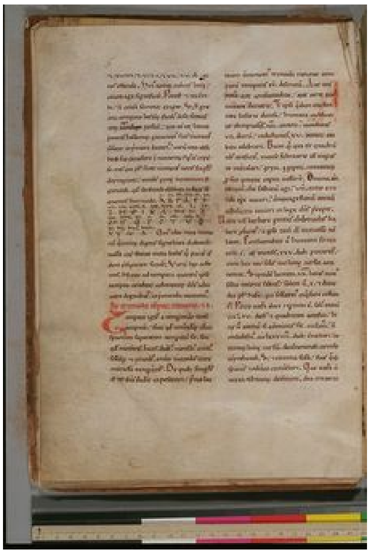
Status of text: Beginning defectively in the chapter list.



f. 2v First scribe; painted initial; damage to the leaf from an unknown source.

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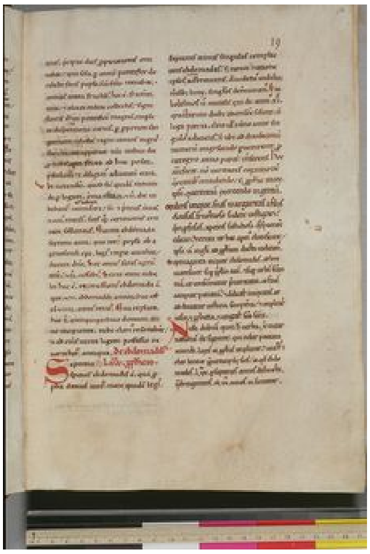
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f. 3v Greek letters as numbers.

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f. 10 Pricking in both inner and outer margins; written above top line; shift from first to second scribe in column b.

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f. 10v Endings of the numbers entered in the interlinear space.

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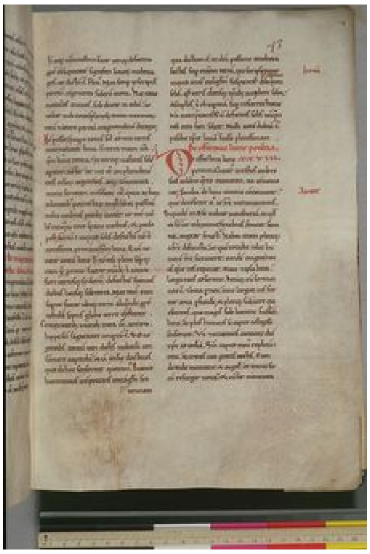
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f. 14v Letter "r" in outer margin; painted initials.

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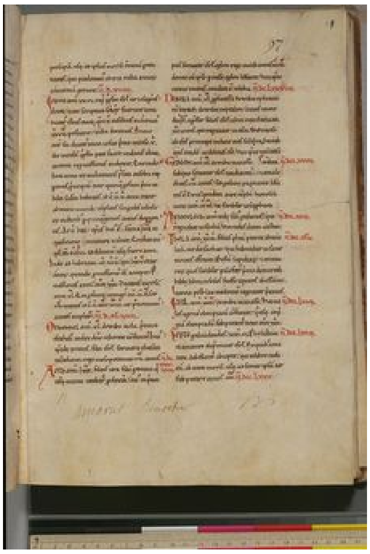
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f. 22 Note of missing text in inner margin ("deest"); authorities, Jerome and Ambrose, cited in red ink in outer margin.

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f. 49 Guide letters beside each painted initial; later ownership note as pentrial in lower margin.

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f. 55 Painted initials; letter "r" in inter-column space.

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Text 2: ff. 69v-70

Title: Computistic materials

Language(s):

Incipit: Dehinc sequuntur quedam partes de ratione computandi ab ipso viro insite. Divisiones temporis sunt xiiiicim, Id est atomus, momentum, minutum, punctum, hora

Explicit: usque ad finem, mundus vero est universitas que constat celo et terra et mari.

Notes: The text is attributed to Bede (as "ipse vir"), although it is not in his work in this form.

Text 3: ff. 70-74

Title: Paschal materials

Language(s):

Incipit: Incipiunt argumenta de titulis paschalibus egiptiorum investigata sollertia Que dionisius composuit, utraque lingua greca videlicet et latina eruditus, [text:] Si vis scire quot anni sunt ab incarnatione domini nostri ihesu christi, computa quindecies LV

Explicit: et tota nocte tenebre sunt nisi stellarum tantum lumen fiat et tunc luna in xxxma die accenditur.

Notes: Somewhat similar to the text printed as Dionysius Exiguus, Argumenta de titulis paschalibus aegyptiorum investigata solertia; PL 67:497-508, here using the year 788 (not 738) as the base.

Text 4: ff. 74v-75

Title: Computistical materials on the sun and the moon

Language(s):

Incipit: Aries tenet Aprilem, Taurus tenet Maium, Gemini . . . De saltu lune, Victurinus dicit Post xcem et viiiivem annos egyptiorum more continuato ordine hoc argumentum lunare adcrescit

Explicit: etiam utrum sub incensio vel media aut super incensio sit caucius et diligencius animadverti debet. [space] Finito christus rex libro sit benedictus.

Notes: Computistical text on the sun and the moon entering the various signs of the zodiac; text on length of the lunar month.

Text 5: ff. 75v-76

Author: Hugh of St. Victor

Title: De Tribus Maximis Circumstanciis Gestorum

Title: Incipit liber de tribus maximis circunstanciis gestorum id est personis, locis, temporibus

Language(s):

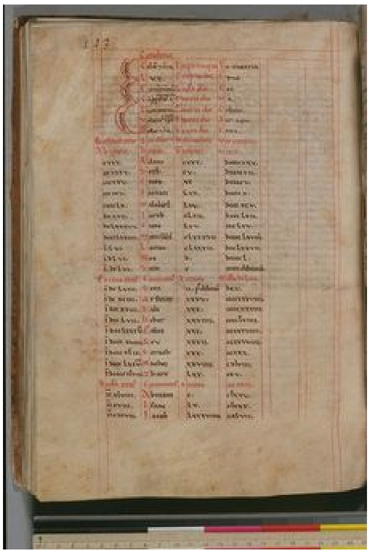
Incipit: Fili sapientia thesaurus est et cor tuum archa. Quando sapientiam discis thesaurizas tibi thesauros bonos . . . Tribus modis discernenda sunt in animo ea que discuntur, Secundum numerum, secundum locum et secundum tempora

Explicit: quo ipsa volumus animo tuo per memoriam inseri, ut quicquid postea superedificaverimus solidum esse possit.

Notes: Passage on the value of knowledge and on the three means of effective memorization.

Text 6: ff. 76v-96v

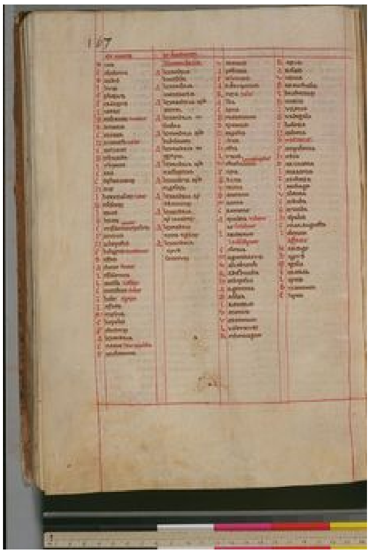
Title: Computational treatises; regnal lists; tracts
Language(s): Latin
Notes: Charts from Creation to Herod Agrippa with number of years passed, name of the person, span of life or regnal years; regnal years or consulships of pagan antiquity for the Assyrians under Belus through the Roman consuls Antony, Lepidus, Augustus; life span of Christ, then papal reigns, Peter through Honorius II (1124-1129); regnal years of Roman emperors from Julius Caesar through Irene; list of emperors in the East from Nicephorus through John II Porphyrogenitus (1118-1143) and of the Eastern emperors in the West from Constantine through Totila, and in the East from Constantine through Justinian; list of Holy Roman emperors from their ancestor, Priam of Troy through Louis VI the Fat (without regnal years, as if still living; died 1137), then Louis VII the Young (without regnal years, as if the heir apparent; reigned 1131-1180) in the French line; in Germany, through Henry III (with regnal years), omitting one Henry (presumably Henry IV, 1050-1106, since he was deposed), then Henry V and Lothair II (as if the reigning king and his heir? Henry V reigned 1106-1125; Lothair II reigned 1125-1137); in Italy, through Hugo (of Arles? 926-945); list of the Norman dukes from Rollo through Boemund (renounced 1088); of the Lombard dukes and kings from Agelmund through Adalchis (758-774); of the Vandal kings from Genserik through Gelimer (530-534) followed by Wintharith (?); of the Ostrogoths from Walemer through Totila (541-555); of the Visigoths from Athanarik through Rekisuinth (649-672); list of Persian emperors from Chosroes through Hormizd; list of 32 historians; geographical lists, beginning with the parts of the world, regions, mountains, promontories, rivers, islands, ending with 12 cities of Spain and 7 of Africa; tables with columns for the year of our Lord, the indiction, the popes ("et anni eorum"), the emperors ("et anni eorum"), beginning with Christ and ending with Benedict IX (1033-1046) and Conrad II (1027-1039) with the year of our Lord numbered up to 1038.



f. 76v Third scribe; chart.

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f. 88v Lists of cities.

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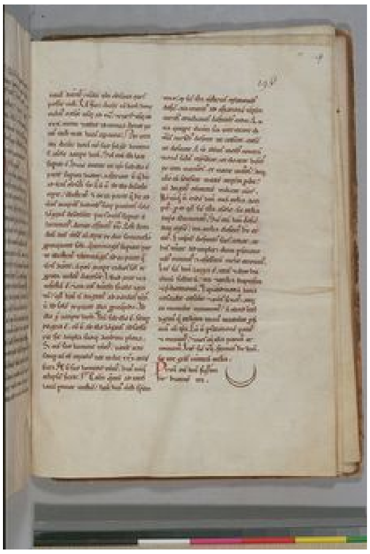
Text 7: ff. 97-112v
Author: Isidore of Seville
Title: De natura rerum
Language(s): Latin
Incipit: Cum te prestantem ingenio facundiaque ac vario flore litterarum non nesciam impendis tamen amplius curam . . . [text:] Dies est solis orientis presentia
Explicit: sic ignis ille ad crucianda corpora damnatorum finem numquam est habiturus. Explicit.
Notes: PL 83:963-1016 but here omitting chapters 44 and 48. Díaz y Díaz, Index n. 106, this manuscript not listed.



f. 97 Fourth scribe; painted 4-line initial followed by a first text line in a display script; multiple forms of the letter "D" in the list.

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f. 104 Crescent moon.

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f. 106 Fifth scribe; diagram of the spheres.

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f. 110 Windrose.

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